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SOURCE Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao.

STATE-OWNED MECHANIZED FARMS PROVE WORTH
IN SPRING PLANTING BUT LACK PERSONNEL

SPRING PLANTING ALMOST COMPLETED IN NORTH AND EAST CHINA -- Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 5 Jun 50

Peiping, 22 May (Hsin-hua) -- Nearly all spring planting on the ten state-owned mechanized farms in North and East China was completed by mid-May 1950. Total acreage of the ten farms is 189,400 mou; of this, 139,000 mou are under cultivation, and, to date, 21,000 mou of cotton, 9,500 mou of hemp, 19,588 mou of rice, and 20,800 mou of various other crops have been planted. These farms have a total of 139 tractors.

Eight of these farms are located in North China and two in East China. Those in North China are: Kao-li farm near Tientsin, Huang-hua farm (formerly Hsin-hai Hsien farm) in Hopeh Province, P'ing-chiao farm near the outskirts of Peiping, Chi-heng farm in Heng-shui Hsien in Hopeh Province, Yung-nien farm and Pao-ting farm in Hopeh Province, Po-ai farm in Pingyuan Province, and Ch'a-pei farm in Chahar Province. The two in East China are Kuang-pei farm in Shantung Province and Tung-hsin farm in Kiangsu Province.

Kao-li farm is the most outstanding one in North China; it has 52,292 mou of land, 24 tractors (a total of 734 horsepower), seven water pumps (a total of 1,250 horsepower), and it employs 249 workers. The main crops are rice and cotton, and 4,953 mou of cotton and 17,000 mou of rice were planted by the beginning of May. In the autumn, this farm is planning to plant alfalfa and fertilizing crops.

Administration and operation of the farms are done on nearly the same basis as in the USSR. Kao-li farm has begun a 6-year crop-rotation system for rice and cotton, and in accordance with the Soviet method, it is experimenting on close planting of rice and cotton; rice was planted with a space of 0.85 foot between each row, and cotton was planted with 2.15 feet between rows and one foot between each plant.

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- 1 -

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Besides these ten farms, there are 12 more in the Northeast, which are the first group of mechanized farms operated strictly under socialism; their failure or success concerns all the people of China. However, these farms lack experienced personnel and skilled technicians, machinery, oil storage tanks, and repair shops. Therefore, their main purpose at present is to train personnel and gain experience. Also for the education of personnel, the Ministry of Agriculture is conducting an agricultural machinery school, from which 455 tractor drivers were graduated in spring 1950. To supply these farms with necessary equipment, a farm machinery supply depot and repair shop have also been set up in the outskirts of Peiping.

NORTHEAST TROOPS ASSIST PRODUCTION -- Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 6 Jun 50

Mukden, 26 May (Hsin-hua) -- Various People's Liberation Army units in the Northeast Military District have completed their military training and are now participating in production and construction activities. During 1950, the troops plan to cultivate 72,600 mou [one mou equals 1/6 acre] of paddy fields, 279,000 mou of regular fields, and 5,300 mou of vegetable gardens.

Thus far the units in the P'an-shan and Ho-lung farms in Liaosi and Liaotung provinces have completed cultivation of more than 4,800 mou of paddy fields and started plowing regular fields. An unidentified division in North Manchuria finished hauling fertilizer and sowing 6,500 mou with barley and maize. An engineering unit at the P'an-shan farm completed 869,000 cubic meters of earthwork to repair canals, channels, and embankments.

An unidentified unit in Mukden completed 93,000 cubic meters of earthwork at the Hun-ho Irrigation Project and made possible the irrigation of 75,000 mou of land. Another unit at Fu-shun repaired 198 living quarters belonging to the Fu-shun Mining Bureau. The same unit and another unit at Ch'ang-ch'un repaired the Mukden--Fu-shun and Mukden--P'u-lan-tien highways.

Troops in An-tung, Ying-k'ou, and Chin-shih are participating in marine industry and are manufacturing finished products. A unit stationed in Liao-yang started manufacturing bricks in mid-April 1950.

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- 2 -

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